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Sensors Directorate names new deputy

by Grace Janiszewski, Sensors Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — A pilot with more than 4,300 hours of flight time in more than 100 types of aircraft has been named deputy director of Air Force Research Laboratory's Sensors Directorate. Col. Samuel K. Ryals said he plans to use his flight experience to help move new technology directly to the warfighter more rapidly.

In addition, Ryals said helping others, increasing teamwork and mentoring are his major goals. "Mentors are leaders, and leaders are mentors," he said. "If we're not mentoring, then I think we're shortchanging the Air Force in the long run."

Before this assignment, Ryals was director of Aeronautical Systems Center's Special Operations Forces System Program Office.

A 1975 graduate of the Air Force Academy, Ryals has served in a variety of assignments including four overseas tours, and an assignment as a replacement-training unit U-2/TR-1 and T-38 instructor pilot. In 1985, he was selected for Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, Calif. He was a test pilot on 12 developmental aircraft programs, to include source selection and first flight test on the T-1A Jayhawk and the C-18D cruise missile mission control aircraft. He also served as an instructor pilot at the Air Force Test Pilot School.

Having served at Wright-Patterson for two previous tours, Ryals said serving as deputy director is a wonderful way to conclude his military service. "The majority of my career has been in the acquisition and operational fields," he said. "It is exciting now to be involved in the discovery phase, the research that leads to the improvements delivered to the war fighter."

His career has included command of the AC-130U Spectre Gunship program, the Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment Division, the Space and C3I Management Division at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif., and the F-117 program, moving the program office to Wright-Patterson in July 1998. During that tour he won the secretary of the Air Force for acquisition's Lightning Bolt award, John J. Welch Jr. trophy, and both the vice presidential Hammer Award and the David Packard award for acquisition excellence. @



Col. Samuel K. Ryals